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Activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, including coordination matters

Draft resolution 25/4: Implementation of the strategic plan for 2014–2019

The Governing Council,

Recalling its relevant resolutions and decisions on the coordinated implementation of the mandate of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, sustainable urbanization and human settlements, including its resolution 24/15 of 19 April 2013 by which it approved the strategic plan for 2014–2019 and the work programme and budget of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme for the biennium 2014–2015,

Recalling also relevant General Assembly resolutions, including resolutions 66/288 of 27 July 2012, entitled "The future we want", 69/266 of 19 December 2014 on implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and 68/309 of 10 September 2014 on the report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 66/288,

Taking note of the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, held in Sendai, Japan from 14 to 18 March 2015, at which the participants adopted the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 as the successor agreement to the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters,[1]

Bearing in mind the upcoming third International Conference on Financing for Development in Addis Ababa, the United Nations summit in New York to adopt the post-2015 development agenda and the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Paris and their expected outcomes,

Expressing appreciation to the United Nations Human Settlements Programme for the progress in the implementation of its strategic plan and work programme through a set of key targeted policies and systems to improve efficiency and productivity,

1. *Requests* the Executive Director to further develop and strengthen the linkages between normative work and operational activities with a view to achieving in full the results expected from the implementation of the strategic plan for 2014–2019;

2. *Also requests* the Executive Director to ensure the development of programmes and projects that implement an integrated approach to sustainable urbanization and human settlements and

[1] A/CONF.206/6 and Corr.1, chap. I, resolution 2.

promote effective rural-urban linkages, bearing in mind the strong link between sustainable development and sustainable urbanization and human settlements;

3. *Further requests* the Executive Director to continue the work of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme for the prevention of urban violence and crime and for the enhancement of urban safety by creating an inter-agency collaborative framework on safer cities, without prejudice to the distinct mandate of each entity and in full compliance with the financial rules and regulations;

I

Substantive focus and scope

4. *Requests* the Executive Director to increase his efforts to take on board the perspectives of local authorities and have those perspectives incorporated, as appropriate, into the implementation of the outcomes of the post-2015 development agenda and the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III);

5. *Also requests* the Executive Director to increase the capacity-building offered to local governments, in accordance with national and subnational priorities and needs, recognizing that they are key actors in achieving sustainable urbanization and human settlements and sustainable development;

6. *Further requests* the Executive Director to continue to support national and local governments in the development of functionally effective legal and institutional frameworks to facilitate sustainable urbanization and human settlement development that provide for long-term objectives, are non-discriminatory and inclusive and provide the most efficient and locally relevant solutions possible, and encourages member States to consider, as appropriate, the development of an effective policy framework around sustainable urbanization and human settlements;

7. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue to raise awareness of the direct relationship between positive urban-rural development linkages and sustainable urbanization and human settlements, to disseminate, in cooperation with appropriate partners, good practices and policies in relation to mutually beneficial urban-rural development relationships and to continue to focus on the development of programmes and projects that implement an integrated approach in order to ensure well-established rural-urban linkages that contribute to achieving sustainable development and poverty eradication;

8. *Encourages* member States to engage in inclusive, participatory and sustainable spatial planning processes that respond to their social, economic and environmental realities, acknowledging rural-urban inequalities;

9. *Welcomes* the efforts of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to support member States in establishing and further developing a global network of planning and design labs to share good practices and to assist cities and human settlements in achieving more productive, compact, socially inclusive, integrated and connected cities and territories that foster sustainable development and promote public health;

10. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue to work with partners to promote urban financing strategies to support sustainable urbanization and human settlements;

11. *Encourages* member States to support the promotion of local economic development activities in order to help to enhance access to financing for sustainable urbanization and human settlements at the local level;

12. *Requests* the Executive Director to further strengthen partnerships, peer learning and a community of practice approach on national urban policies as means to support national and local governments as they develop and implement such policies;

13. *Also requests* the Executive Director to develop and implement tools and training programmes to strengthen the capacity of national and local authorities to generate additional revenue from local and other sources, as appropriate;

14. *Further requests* the Executive Director to continue to support and reinforce the coordination of the efforts of the United Nations system, through the Global Land Tool Network, to bring coherence and conflict-sensitive approaches to land issues, including through a plurality of land tenure systems for all segments of society and alternative forms of land administration;

15. *Encourages* member States to facilitate, if necessary in coordination with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, the sharing of tools and training programmes with national and local authorities with a view to promoting economically, socially and environmentally sustainable societies;

16. *Takes note* of the "housing at the centre approach", which positions housing at the centre of national urban policies and of cities, and encourages the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and member States to consider the implementation of the Global Housing Strategy, as appropriate, including through the design of tools and mechanisms to promote inclusive housing finance at the national and local levels to bridge the housing gap and to contribute to the progressive realization of the right to adequate housing for all;

17. *Invites* member States and their partners to continue to formulate and implement national housing strategies through the increased use of inclusive broad-based participatory processes and by designing inclusive affordable housing solutions;

18. *Requests* the Executive Director to consider health and well-being aspects, including promotion of and access to health services, in developing policies on urban and territorial planning and human settlements and in the operational work of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme;

19. *Also requests* the Executive Director, in view of the increasing burden of HIV and associated diseases faced by cities and the unequal access to basic HIV health services by marginalized urban dwellers, to continue to collaborate with member States and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS to examine the consequences of HIV on urban life and prosperity, to develop an inclusive multisectoral AIDS response as part of housing programmes and to help to measure achievement towards the global target of ending AIDS by 2030;

20. *Further requests* the Executive Director to further advocate and support the implementation of national and city-wide slum-upgrading and urban renewal approaches, building on the past work of the Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme and slum prevention activities;

21. *Invites* member States to work towards the prevention of slums, the empowerment of slum communities and the strengthening of institutional mechanisms equipping slum dwellers to contribute to the improvement of the living environment, aiming at promoting social, economic and political inclusion and poverty eradication through, among other things, access to sustainable mobility, skills and capacity development, the creation of job opportunities, in particular for women and young people, public spaces and respect for cultural diversity, and by strengthening linkages to the formal settings in the rural and urban surroundings of slum settlements;

22. *Requests* the Executive Director to address the high rates of youth unemployment by developing high-level programmes and policies, thereby enabling the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to work with member States and local authorities to develop and implement targeted and integrated local and national youth employment and entrepreneurship programmes and policies for inclusive, sustainable and innovative job creation;

23. *Also requests* the Executive Director to continue the work of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme on the provision of urban basic services, including water and sanitation, drainage, waste management, sustainable energy and urban mobility, as well as improving air quality, according priority to a shift towards the provision of sustainable energy and urban mobility and to support the Urban Basic Services Trust Fund and the Global Expanded Monitoring Initiative, and calls upon Member States to consider contributing to the Trust Fund;

24. *Encourages* member States to support initiatives aimed at improving access to sustainable energy and mainstreaming energy efficiency and sustainable energy systems into housing policies and regulations and to support the Urban Electric Mobility Initiative, while promoting hybrid and electric mobility as a priority in conjunction with urban policies in support of compact city planning, energy and resource efficiency, making the transition to sustainable sources of energy and better public transport systems and facilities integrated with safe and attractive non-motorized transport options;

25. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue the activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to address urban challenges relating to displaced populations in a vulnerable situation, including by supporting planned urban growth and slum prevention activities and contributing to global knowledge development through close collaboration with relevant United Nations agencies and

other humanitarian organizations, including the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Rescue Committee and the Norwegian Refugee Council;

26. *Also requests* the Executive Director to support member States, and local governments in particular, as appropriate, in considering the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030;

27. *Calls upon* member States, including through local authorities, to consider disaster risk reduction and disaster resilience in spatial planning and in the designation and use of land;

28. *Requests* the Executive Director and Governments to promote international cooperation in order to share technical expertise, build technical and policymaking capacity and share successful experiences of sustainable and integral spatial planning in rural and urban areas;

29. *Calls upon* the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to continue its efforts to monitor the trends of sustainable urbanization and human settlements at the global, regional and local levels and to strengthen the capacity of national and local governments, as appropriate, in this regard;

30. *Requests* the Executive Director to promote the enhancement of international cooperation to improve national capacity to collect and analyse relevant data and to strengthen urban-rural national and decentralized cadastres, in order to bring about inclusive and sustainable spatial planning that reduces poverty and urban-rural inequalities;

31. *Also requests* the Executive Director to continue the efforts of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to improve knowledge of sustainable urbanization and human settlements modalities at the local, national, regional and global levels through its flagship *State of the World's Cities* report, its regional and national state of the cities reports, its City Prosperity Initiative and its State of the Urban Youth report series, as well as through the transformation of its best practice programme into an interactive database, as the means of responding to the new knowledge requirements of national and local governments and to assist in the formulation of integrated policies;

32. *Further requests* the Executive Director to continue to support the World Urban Forum as a platform to improve collective knowledge and practice on sustainable urban development, to increase collaboration among stakeholders and to raise awareness of the benefits of sustainable urbanization and human settlements, and requests that a strong linkage with the outcome of Habitat III be established at the ninth session of the World Urban Forum, to be held in Kuala Lumpur in 2018;

II

Cross-sectoral issues

33. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue to pursue the mainstreaming of youth and gender equality perspectives in the normative work and operational programmes of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and to ensure that youth and gender equality and empowerment remain an important part of the preparatory process for Habitat III and of the substantive content of the New Urban Agenda;

34. *Also requests* the Executive Director to ensure that adequate human and financial resources are allocated for continued youth and gender mainstreaming in the normative work and operational programmes of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme;

35. *Further requests* the Executive Director to continue to build capacity with national and local governments by, among other things, capturing lessons from its operational work in order to help cities and human settlements to mitigate and adapt to climate change and widely disseminating those findings throughout the United Nations system and with policymakers to facilitate better-informed decision-making;

36. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue to build upon lessons learned from the operative work of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in helping cities to reduce their environmental impact and emissions, addressing their impact on human health and climate change;

37. *Invites* member States to recognize the relevant work of the Compact of Mayors, the City Climate Finance Leadership Alliance and the Resilient Cities Acceleration Initiative launched at the Secretary-General's Climate Summit in 2014;

38. *Requests* the Executive Director to mainstream human rights within the context of advancing the goals and mandate of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, as set out in the Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements and the Habitat Agenda,[2] in line with its strategic plan for 2014–2019, which states that all cross-cutting issues will be mainstreamed throughout its seven focus areas;

III

Advocacy and partnerships

39. *Requests* the Executive Director to work on the engagement of new partners through, among other things, the World Urban Campaign, as a platform for public, private and civil society and other actors to share experiences in order to identify good practices that could contribute to sustainable urbanization and human settlements;

40. *Also requests* the Executive Director, in consultation with member States, to strengthen partnerships with Habitat Agenda partners and other stakeholders in the implementation of the strategic plan for 2014–2019 and in contributing to the design of the New Urban Agenda at the national, regional and global levels, as appropriate;

41. *Further requests* the Executive Director to promote, through extrabudgetary resources, regional dialogue on sustainable urbanization and human settlements issues in all regions, in collaboration with relevant intergovernmental bodies, and promote support for South-South cooperation that provides, among other things, capacity-building for civil society and grass-roots organizations to engage effectively in policy debates;

42. *Calls upon* the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to enhance United Nations inter-agency coordination and engagement with intergovernmental organizations and regional development banks in the pursuit of sustainable urbanization and human settlement development at all levels, including active involvement in the United Nations regional coordination mechanisms and support for intergovernmental bodies and regional economic commissions;

43. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue to enhance the contribution of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to United Nations inter-agency coordination and engagement with other intergovernmental organizations in the area of sustainable urbanization and human settlement development at all levels;

44. *Also requests* the Executive Director, in coordination with member States and partners, to forge stronger partnerships with academic institutions and centres of excellence, including through the Habitat Partner University Initiative, professional institutions and development banks to enhance learning and to disseminate knowledge and innovation to harness the opportunities that urbanization processes offer and to provide high-level training and capacity development to local and national governments;

45. *Further requests* the Executive Director to strengthen and coordinate the partnerships of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme with humanitarian and development actors, as well as with all other relevant actors, to capitalize on their respective expertise to help to increase the resilience and preparedness of cities, especially the most fragile, to prevent or cope adequately with disasters and humanitarian crisis situations, paying special attention to the needs of people in vulnerable situations;

46. *Requests* the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its twenty-sixth session on progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

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[2] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3–14 June 1996* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.6), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.